Carbon Dioxide Emission Factors for Coal

This table presents U.S. average carbon dioxide emission factors for coal by sector. The factors measure the emissions produced during the combustion of coal and were derived by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) from 5,426 sample analyses in EIA's Coal Analysis File. The factors are ratios of the carbon dioxide emitted to the heat content of the coal burned, assuming complete combustion. Factors vary according to the rank and geographic origin of the coal. Sectoral factors reflect the rank and origin of the coal consumed in the sector. Factors differ among sectors and within a sector over time for several reasons:

1. A higher average emission factor in the residential and commercial sector can be attributed to the steady consumption of bituminous coal and anthracite (presumably for home heating).

2. Virtually all of the coal consumed by coke plants comes from only a few States in the Appalachian Coal Basin (West Virginia, Virginia, and eastern Kentucky). Hence, the emission factors for this sector have remained fairly constant.

3. Other industrial users of coal (not coke plants) increased consumption of low-rank, high-emission western coals, which has contributed to a rise in their average emission factor.

4. Electric utilities, which account for most U.S. coal consumption, have shifted over time away from high-rank, low-emission bituminous coal to low-rank, high-emission subbituminous coal and lignite as reflected in a gradually rising weighted-average carbon dioxide emission factor.

Average Carbon Dioxide Emission Factors for Coal by Sector, 1980-1997
(Pounds of Carbon Dioxide per Million Btu)

Year	Residential and Commercial	Industrial		Electric Utilities	U.S. Average[b]
		Coke Plants[a]	Other Coal		
1980	210.6	205.8	205.9	206.7	206.5
1981	212.0	205.8	205.9	206.9	206.7
1982	210.4	205.7	206.0	207.0	206.9
1983	209.2	205.5	205.9	207.1	207.0
1984	209.5	205.6	206.2	207.1	207.0
1985	209.3	205.6	206.4	207.3	207.1
1986	209.2	205.4	206.5	207.3	207.1
1987	209.4	205.2	206.4	207.3	207.2
1988	209.1	205.3	206.4	207.6	207.3
1989	209.7	205.3	206.6	207.5	207.3
1990	209.5	206.2	206.8	207.6	207.4
1991	210.2	206.2	206.9	207.7	207.5
1992	211.2	206.2	207.1	207.7	207.6
1993	209.9	206.2	207.0	207.8	207.7
1994	209.8	206.3	207.2	207.9	207.8
1995	210.2	206.4	207.2	208.1	207.9
1996	209.5	206.5	207.0	208.1	208.0
1997	210.2	206.6	207.2	208.2	208.0

[a]No allowances have been made for carbon-related non-energy coal chemical by-products from the coal carbonization process.

[b]Weighted average. The weights used are consumption values by sector.

Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels.